

Addressing Behavior Challenges with Dementia “ABCD”

Improving quality of life for persons with dementia and their family caregivers

Program Details

An Interactive Workshop of the VA Geriatrics Scholars Program

Need:

The incidence of Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias has risen dramatically among American Indians and Alaska Natives. It is important to expand the ability of those in the community to support family caregivers of persons with dementia with resources to address challenging behaviors and with criteria to address health and safety issues when they arise.

Goals/Outcomes:

- Recognize (or identify) dementia
- Recognize challenging behaviors that can be addressed by non-pharmacological interventions and distinguish them from behaviors that require medical intervention
- Educate family caregivers on behavioral solutions and monitor implementation goals
- Communicate to clinic team and to family caregivers about healthcare needs requiring immediate intervention

Topics:

- Primary Prevention
 - Control of diabetes and hypertension
 - Promote brain health
- Secondary Prevention
 - Recognize signs and symptoms of undiagnosed dementia
 - Identify dementia using quick screening tools
- Tertiary Prevention
 - Home safety for persons with dementia
 - Caregiver education on non-pharmacologic management of challenging behaviors
 - Self care for caregivers

Participants:

Rural clinic public health nurses, social workers, and community health representatives, clinic teams; assisted living and senior services staff are invited to attend.

Faculty:

The program is cofacilitated by a geriatrician and an educator from a VA Geriatrics, Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) of Excellence and the UCLA Division of Geriatric Medicine.

Advantages:

On-site, full day program or half-day options, resources provided, CME/CEU accreditation.

Coordinating Site:

Geriatric Research, Education & Clinical Center (GRECC) at the VA Greater Los Angeles Health Care System

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